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American Medical Association.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT NEW YORK, JUNE 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1864.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH—MORNING SESSION.

THE Association met pursuant to regulations at eleven o'clock Tuesday morning, June 7, 1864, at Irving Hall, New York, and was called to order by the retiring President, Alden March, M.D., of Albany, supported by retiring Vice-Presidents, Dr. John Cooper, of Delaware; Dr. David Prince, of Illinois; Dr. C. C. Cox, Surg. U.S.V. The Secretaries, Drs. H. A. Johnson of Illinois, and Guido Furman of New York, were also present.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. De Witt of New York, after which Dr. JAMES ANDERSON of New York, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, welcomed the delegates and members, and made the following report :

MR. PRESIDENT AND DELEGATES TO THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—GENTLEMEN:—In the discharge of the duty devolved upon me as Chairman of your Committee of Arrangements, it affords me great pleasure on this, the fifteenth anniversary of the Association, in behalf of your committee as well as the profession in general, to extend to you a cordial welcome. This organization, whose germ was first developed in the Medical Society of the State of New York, was perfected on the seventh of May, 1847, by the election of the venerable Dr. Nathaniel Chapman of Philadelphia as its first President, since which time its meetings have been held in nearly all the prominent cities of our country. Its sole object has ever been the elevation of the dignity and usefulness of the profession, in the endeavor to obtain which it becomes us individually as well as collectively, by our advice and example, to stimulate each other to higher attainments, and by our conduct to command respect. It is now eleven years since your last meeting in this city, around which occasion cluster many pleasant reminiscences, saddened only by the absence of some of the brightest names among your ranks, who have passed to their silent resting-place—names which gave dignity to your body and wisdom to your counsels. Your Committee of Arrangements, in due time after their appointment in Chicago, organized and invited a representation from the hospitals, colleges, and medical societies of this city and Brooklyn, for the purpose of eliciting a united expression and procuring a more extensive and general welcome to this national reunion, and have matured such plans as it is hoped will render your stay both instructive and interesting. Guide-books will be furnished to each delegate, with a programme comprising a variety of intellectual as well as social amusements. Among the institutions which have sprung up since your former visit may be noticed St. Luke's Hospital, on the Fifth Avenue, with a full and efficient medical staff; also a medical college under the auspices of the Commissioners of Charities and Corrections, and in connexion with the Bellevue Hospital and Alms-House; and in time, through the liberal bequest of the late Mr. Roosevelt, a third hospital will be added to the list. There is a feature, Mr. President, in your present assembling, of deep interest and solemn regret. I allude to that profound silence of several, and the diminished response of other States, which will appear upon the calling of the roll. It would not be proper on this occasion, nor becoming the circumstances under which I appear before you, to allude to its cause. Let us trust, however, that, through the interposition of an all-wise and overruling Providence, the time is not far distant when we may again offer to our alienated brethren the hand of professional fellowship which it is our privilege to extend to you this day. I again welcome you all to this metropolis.

On motion, the report was received and adopted. Dr. Anderson, on behalf of the Committee, suggested that the

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Association should hold two daily sessions during Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—one in the morning, from ten to half-past one o'clock P.M.; and one in the afternoon, from three o'clock until such time as was the pleasure of the body to adjourn. On motion, this suggestion was ordered to be embodied in the report.

SURG. C. C. COX, U.S.V., moved that Surg. Charles S. Tripler, U.S.A., be invited to a seat on the platform.

It was then moved that the Association should take a recess of ten minutes for the purpose of affording an opportunity to the delegates to select the Nominating Committee, which was carried. After the lapse of the specified time, the Committee elected reported the following names:

J. C. Weston, Maine; Thos. D. Marshall, N.H.; J. N. Stiles, Vermont; Horatio R. Storer, Mass.; Johnson Gardiner, Rhode Island; E. H. Catlin, Conn.; Jas. P. White, New York; L. A. Smith, New Jersey; A. Nebinger, Penn.; F. E. B. Hintze, Maryland; Henry F. Askew, Del.; B. B. Leonard, Ohio; Jas. F. Hibbard, Ind.; Wm. H. Byford, Ill.; S. G. Armor, Mich.; J. H. Bartlett, Wis.; A. E. McCurdy, Iowa; Geo. W. Phelps, Mo.; Noble Young, D.C.; Thos. Antisell, U.S.A.; and Thos. L. Smith, U.S.N.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

DR. ALDEN MARCH was next requested to read his retiring address as President of the Association. His subject had reference to the elevation of the standard of the profession by a thorough and proper medical education. After a few general and preliminary remarks, and the rehearsal of the views of many of those who had devoted considerable time and attention to the theme, he set forth its claims upon the consideration of the Association as a body, and urged the importance, in the first place, of a fitting preliminary education, as the grand foundation-stone upon which to rear the superstructure, and contended that every candidate for the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine should be required to attend three full courses of lectures, instead of the two usually prescribed. If this plan were carried out, he had no doubt but that the time of study thus increased would afford the student an opportunity to digest more fully the great principles of our art as given to him in the lecture-room. Too many of our young men, in his opinion, were allowed to graduate, who, for want of these very opportunities, suffered from a mental indigestion which troubled them more or less through their whole professional career, and prevented them from applying the great truths of science to every-day practice with that degree of satisfaction which was the only sure forerunner of advancement and success. If each course should only comprise a period of four months, he thought that the entire time of attending lectures, extending, as it should, over a period of three years, would be more than equivalent, in point of actual benefit to the student, to the ordinary two full courses of six months each.

DR. WILSON JEWELL, Pa., moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to Dr. March for his able and interesting address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

The Association then adjourned till three P.M.

TUESDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the President, after which the minutes of the previous session were read by the Secretary. The names of registered members were next read.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

The Nominating Committee then made the following partial report:

President, N. S. DAVIS, of Illinois.

W. S. MUSSEY, Ohio.

WORRINGTON HOOKER, Conn.

WILLIAM WHEELIN, Ind.

F. E. B. HEINTZE, Md.

Secretary, GUIDO FURMAN, N. Y.

Treasurer, CASPER WISTER, Pa.

The Committee recommended Boston, Mass., as the place for holding the next annual meeting.

DR. GRISCOM, N. Y., moved that the report of the Committee be laid upon the table in order to discuss the following proposed amendments to the plan of organization:—

1st. Providing for the appointment of one permanent Secretary. 2d. That the President and Vice-Presidents of this Association elected each year shall assume the functions of their respective offices at the beginning of the meeting of the year next succeeding their election.

This motion, however, was, after much discussion, finally lost.

DR. RAPHAEL, of New York, then moved that the report of the Nominating Committee be recommitted, with instructions that two Presidents be nominated instead of one, and that the one who should receive the majority of the number of votes cast should be declared elected.

A lengthy discussion then ensued as to the propriety of the measure, and it was eventually voted down.

The question for the adoption of the report of the Committee was next put and carried.

On motion of DR. GRISCOM of New York, the President and Vice-Presidents were duly escorted to their chairs.

DR. N. S. DAVIS, on assuming his duties as President of the Association, tendered his sincere thanks for the honor conferred upon him, and asked of the members their kind co-operation in his endeavors to perform the duties of his office.

The Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements stated that invitations were extended to the members to visit the following places:—U. S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn; Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn; Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute; Long Island College Hospital; U. S. Naval Hospital, Brooklyn; U. S. Soldiers' Depôt, N. Y.

The following gentlemen were announced as members by invitation:—Drs. Ed. M. Stein, G. R. Brush, P. H. Barton, D. McSweeney, H. H. Gregory, Elisha Harris, and B. Dewitt, Bradford Co., Pa.

The President appointed the following Committee to examine all voluntary communications:—Drs. A. B. Palmer, H. F. Askew, S. G. Hubbard.

DR. CYRUS RAMSAY, N. Y., moved that the regular order of business be suspended, and that the proposed amendments of the Constitution be taken up. Which was carried, and the following amendment introduced:—

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION IN RELATION TO PERMANENT SECRETARY.

It is hereby ordained that Article 4, Sec. 1, of the Constitution be amended as follows:—From the 2d line strike out the words "two Secretaries," and insert "one Permanent and one Assistant Secretary;" and in the 5th line after word "officer," insert the words "except the Permanent Secretary;" also add to the same section the following: "the Permanent Secretary shall hold his appointment for ten years, unless sooner removed by death, resignation, or a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular annual meeting."

And be it further ordained that Section 5 of the same article be stricken out, and the following substituted in its place, viz.: "The Permanent Secretary shall record the minutes and authenticate the proceedings, give due notice of the time and place of each next ensuing annual meeting; notify all members of Committees of their appointment and of the duties assigned to them; hold correspondence with other permanently organized Medical Societies both domestic and foreign; serve as a member of the Committee on Publication; see that the published Transactions are promptly distributed to all the members who have paid their annual assessment, and carefully preserve the Archives and unpublished Transactions of the Association.

The Assistant Secretary shall aid the permanent Secretary in recording and authenticating the Proceedings of the Association; serve as a member of the Committee of

Arrangements, and perform all the duties of permanent Secretary temporarily whenever that office shall be vacant either by death, resignation, or removal.

And be it further ordained, that Article 6, Section "second," be added after the word "meetings," in the second line, the following, viz.: "including the necessary expenses of the permanent Secretary in maintaining the correspondence of the Association."

After reading the amendments, DR. JEWELL of Pennsylvania moved to strike out from the last clause, "attending the regular meetings." Which motion was adopted.

DR. NEBINGER, Pa., moved to strike out the word "ten" in the second paragraph, and substitute "five." Which was lost.

DR. GRISCOM proposed to strike out all that related to a specified term of years.

The previous question being called for and sustained, the amendment of Dr. Griscom was carried.

The question recurring on the adoption of the proposed amendments as amended, it was finally carried in the affirmative.

The Association then adjourned until ten A.M. of the day following, June 8.

During the evening the members were handsomely entertained at the residences of Drs. Jos. M. Smith, C. A. Budd, Isaac E. Taylor, Gurdon Buck, and Mayor Gunther.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH.—MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the President, N. S. DAVIS, at 10 A.M.

The minutes of the previous session were then read by the Secretary, Dr. Furman, and adopted.

The following gentlemen were elected members by invitation, and were requested to take seats on the platform:—Drs. C. W. Stearns, N. Y.; C. C. Knight, New Haven; S. H. Casey, Oneonta; W. B. Southern, Mich.; Philander White, Oswego Co., N. Y.; F. L. Livingston, Barrett, Mass.; Jno. Green, Worcester, Mass.; — Noyes, Norwalk, Conn.; Thomas Cock, N. Y.

On motion, the following gentlemen were elected permanent members:—Drs. Brown-Sequard, Boston, Mass.; Jno. P. Gray, State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y.

The reports of the Standing Committee were next called for in regular order and referred to their appropriate sections.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The report of the Treasurer, DR. C. WISTER, showed a balance on hand of \$449.02. Only about 120 copies of Volume XIV. have been sold during the past year.

REPORT ON COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

DR. JAS. F. HIBBARD, Chairman of the Committee on Compulsory Vaccination, read a report in which it was contended that the adoption of the measure was impracticable, inasmuch as it was necessary for the people to be convinced of its utility and harmlessness before they would submit. They could be properly educated in this matter by the medical profession, who should act as a unit in recommending it under all circumstances. The Committee also recommended that the daily papers throughout the Union should be requested to ventilate the matter, and use every persuasion in their power to bring the public to a proper understanding of the power of vaccination in preventing the spread of small-pox. The report concluded with the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That a committee of be appointed, to supervise and control under the direction of this Association, all matters pertaining to general vaccination.

Resolved, That a committee of be appointed in each State to superintend the measure in its State, which committee shall be subordinate, auxiliary, and advisory to the Central Committee.

Signed,

JAS. F. HIBBARD, Chairman.
WILSON JEWELL.
JNO. H. GRISCOM.

Adopted, and referred to the section on Public Health.

DR. H. H. CHILDS, of Mass., was invited to take a seat on the platform.

MEDICINES AND SURGICAL APPARATUS FOR THE WOUNDED AND SUFFERING IN THE SOUTH.

DR. A. K. GARDNER, of N. Y., offered the following:—

Whereas, It is the duty and great distinction of Christian nations, and in conformity with the highest instincts of humanity, to assuage the suffering and mitigate the horrors of war in every possible manner, in which attempt the medical profession has ever been eminently conspicuous; and

Whereas, The stringency of our blockade of the Southern coast has to a great extent deprived the sick and wounded, the feeble babe, the helpless woman, the aged man, as well as the sufferers by wounds and disease in the ranks of our enemies, of needful appliances to relieve pain and to save life; and

Whereas, From the same cause thousands and tens of thousands of our own brave sons and brothers, fighting for the holy cause of our glorious Union, and left wounded on the battle-field in the hands of the enemy, have been compelled to have operations performed without the relief and benefit which chloroform would bring, and have lain in suffering unto death in the hospitals of the South from the absolute destitution of the country of many needful medicines and instruments of surgery; and

Whereas, These articles are in no respect to be considered as among the "sinews of war," and, as has been seen, are not material to a vigorous prosecution of rebellious warfare; and

Whereas, This Association, numbering among its lawful members the medical men of the entire thirty-four States of the Union, we deem it eminently fitting that we should urge upon the Government and the people of the United States to remember the universal brotherhood of man and the undying attributes of humanity; it is therefore unanimously

Resolved, That the Association request the President of the United States to take such action as shall cause all medicines and medical and surgical instruments and appliances to be excluded from the list of articles called "contraband of war," and that such articles in any quantity may be purchased by any person in any State of the Union, and may be conveyed beyond our lines under a flag of truce, after proper inspection, so as to give every necessary comfort to relieve any human suffering, whether of our own soldiers or that of the enemy.

Resolved, That a copy of the above Preamble and Resolution be sent to the President and Heads of Departments, and to each and every member of the United States Senate, and attested by the officers of this Association; and that every member be requested to use all the influence in his power in stripping this fratricidal war of some of its unnecessary horrors, and thereby to inaugurate the re-establishment of more kindly feelings, and to smoothe away some of the obstructions to the reconciliation of our misguided brethren.

Resolved, That a Committee, representing every State of the Union here present, be appointed to present these Resolutions to the President.

On motion, the consideration of the resolutions was indefinitely postponed.

INCREASE OF RANK AND PAY OF MEDICAL STAFF OF ARMY AND NAVY.

DR. C. C. COX offered a resolution to increase the rank and pay of medical officers of the army and navy.

DR. FRANK H. HAMILTON urged the passage of the resolution by some well timed and appropriate remarks, after which the question was put and carried unanimously.

The Chair appointed a Committee, composed of the following gentlemen, to report upon the same, and prepare a memorial for the action of Congress:—DRS. McGUGIN, IOWA; ANTISELL, WASHINGTON, D. C.; F. H. HAMILTON, N. Y., and ASKEW, of Delaware.

The Association then adjourned until 10 A. M. of Thursday, June 9.

The afternoon was occupied in the meeting of the different sections.

The entertainments for the evening were given by DRs. WILLARD PARKER, JAMES ANDERSON, ALONZO CLARK, and JARED LINSLEY.

THURSDAY—MORNING SESSION, JUNE 9.

The Association was called to order by the President shortly after 10 A. M. The Secretary then read the minutes of the previous session, which were, on motion, adopted.

DR. C. C. COX, the Chairman of the Committee appointed to memorialize the President of the United States in reference to the increase of rank and pay of medical officers of the army and navy, moved that DR. CHARLES S. TRIPPLE be added to that Committee, and be appointed the Chairman of the same. Carried.

DR. MORAN, R. I., called the attention of the Association to the prizes offered by the Rhode Island Medical Society, and stated that they were two in number, 100 dollars each, and were open to the competition of all.

TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

On motion of DR. ASKEW, of Delaware, it was agreed that the time for the next meeting of the Association should be on the first Tuesday of June, 1865.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

The reports of the Standing Committees were again called for, with the following results:—

Committee on Insanity.—DR. R. HILLS, of Ohio, the Chairman of the Committee, in a note addressed to the Association, reported progress and asked for further time, promising an elaborate report if such a privilege were granted.

It was then carried that the time should be extended; and on motion of DR. GRISCOM, DR. E. H. VAN DUSER, the Medical Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, Kalamazoo, Mich., was added to the Committee.

Committee on Prize Essays.—The Chairman of the Committee not being present, the calling for the report was deferred.

REPORTS OF SECTIONS.

DR. S. W. BUTLER, of Philadelphia, the Chairman of the Section on Medical Topography and Epidemic Diseases, presented a report, which was adopted in full, and the following gentlemen were appointed as members of the Committee to carry out the spirit of the resolutions appended to report of the Committee on Compulsory Vaccination:—DRS. A. N. BELL, BROOKLYN; J. P. LOINES and H. D. BULLERY, N. Y.; A. NEBINGER, PHILADELPHIA; and J. F. HIBBARD, IND.

The Section on Surgery and on Practical Medicine and Obstetrics made no report at this period of the proceedings.

REPORT ON THE PRACTICAL WORKINGS OF THE U. S. LAW RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

DR. SQUIBB, the Chairman of the Committee on the Practical Workings of the U. S. Drug Law, made a statement to the effect that the gentlemen who composed that Committee could not agree upon the report prepared for their action; and, inasmuch as at the time it was presented for their consideration there was not opportunity for an interchange of views upon the subject, they respectfully requested that, as a Committee, they should be discharged.

On motion of DR. GARDNER, the report of the Committee was accepted and the Committee discharged.

DR. SQUIBB then proceeded, by invitation, to present his views upon the subject, in the form of a voluntary communication. He contended that the practical working of the law was to all intents and purposes a dead letter, and that the Secretary of the Treasury had not acted upon the earnest solicitations of the Committees from the different Societies and Colleges in New York who had been appointed to memorialize him upon the subject, but had made an appointment without qualifications, which could be ascertained at the time, or which have since been manifested in the duties of the office, since drugs of very inferior quality were constantly passed through the Custom House. As an example he instanced several articles, among which were those of jalap and scammony, which were, on examination, found to contain a very small per cent. of active principles—much below that which the law prescribed. He threw out the suggestion that, considering the facts of the appointment of the present inspector, it would be of little use to make any further requests to the appointing power.

In conclusion, he stated that he alone was responsible for the statements contained in the paper, and that DR. BOWDITCH, one of the Committee, declined to sign a report which he considered of a partisan character, reflecting upon the officers of the General Government at the present time. DR. CARSON, the other member of the Committee, did not wish, as a matter of principle, to sign a paper until he was satisfied, from personal observation, that all the statements therein contained were correct.

After some discussion, the report of DR. SQUIBB was accepted, after which

DR. S. R. PERCY, of New York, remarked that DR. SQUIBB had labored under a false impression in making the state-

ments contained in the paper; and further stated that the appointment of Drug Inspector was made by Secretary Chase in perfect good faith, and with the conviction that it would meet the end for which such an appointment was designed. That gentleman had made diligent search for the right man, and, as the result of very numerous recommendations from reliable men of the profession, had selected the present incumbent. Concerning the honesty of the present Inspector, Dr. Percy was prepared to vouch, from a personal knowledge of that gentleman's character, and he could confidently assert that every endeavor had been made to discharge the duties of the responsible office with fidelity. Every specimen that it was possible to examine was carefully examined before it was allowed to pass, and he could not conceive upon what foundation Dr. Squibb had made his assertions. In conclusion, he did not think it came within the province of the Association to endorse any stigmas made against any one; and as a friend to the Inspector, he felt that it was his duty publicly to defend him.

DR. SQUIBB remarked that he was not acquainted with the Inspector, and did not allude to any one by name, but he merely had presented facts which came to his knowledge, leaving the members to draw their own inferences. He only referred to the two articles, scammony and senna, stating that he had examined specimens of the former article which contained as low as 15 per cent. of active principle, instead of 70; and of the latter article, which contained from 10 to 55 per cent. of sticks and stones, and which in that condition had passed the Custom House.

A motion was made to refer the paper to the Committee on Publication, with discretionary power, which was lost.

DR. CURRY, of Westchester co., spoke at some length against the general practice of referring papers to the Publishing Committee, urging as an argument against it that many communications would find their way into the volume which would not be entitled to it, and thought that the Committee should have ample discretionary power in the matter. He did not wish it to be understood that his remarks referred to Dr. Squibb's paper, but only wished the principle of the thing to be discussed.

The President stated that the discretionary power belonged to the section to which any paper might be referred, and suggested the propriety of referring Dr. Squibb's paper to the Section on Chemistry.

DR. MCFARLAND, New York, thereupon made a motion to refer it to that section, which was carried.

REPORT OF SECTION ON PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND OSTEOPATHICS.

DR. STORER, Boston, read a report of the meeting of the Section held the afternoon before, and concluded the same by presenting the following resolutions, which were appended to his paper, and which we have already alluded to:—

Resolved, That in the opinion of the American Medical Association it is expedient that there should be attached to every public hospital for the insane, one or more consulting physicians, whose appointment should be honorary, and who may be consulted at the discretion of the superintendent, such measure being alike for the interest of the hospital, its medical officers, and its patients.

Resolved, That a copy of the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Board of Trustees of each of our public hospitals for the insane, and also to the Secretary of the Association of American Superintendents for the Insane, and request that it may be endorsed by that body, the action proposed being upon the respective boards with which its members are officially connected.

DR. GRISCOM contended that the Association, by passing these resolutions, would prevent any medical man who should be so appointed from receiving any remuneration. He thought that the physician should be paid for his services, if he chose to make an arrangement to that effect with the managers of the institution; but if he was disposed to accept it as an honorary position, the matter was of course only a personal one. These being his views, he moved that the clause, "whose appointment should be honorary," be stricken out.

Remarks were made endorsing Dr. Griscom by Drs. Gardner, New York, McCarthy, Ill., and others.

The amendment was then carried, after which the resolutions were passed upon as a whole.

The report of the Section was also adopted.

THE COMPLETION OF THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. ELECTION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARY.

Before the reading of the report of the Nominating Committee, DR. GRISCOM obtained permission to make a few remarks upon the duties which should be required of the Permanent Secretary. He considered that it was of the utmost importance that the right man should be selected for the performance of duties which involved so great responsibilities. He contended that such an officer of the society should hold regular correspondence with all the members and with all the different societies throughout the country; that he should attend every meeting; should procure a systematic reduction of fare over the different railroad lines communicating with the city in which the meeting is held; that he should give his personal attention to the sale of the Transactions, and use every endeavor to advance the interests of the Association. Such a man, in his opinion, could only be obtained by proper remuneration, and he therefore moved the adoption of a resolution to the following effect:

Resolved, That the Permanent Secretary shall be entitled to the compensation of dollars per annum, payable out of any surplus funds of the Association after all other claims for each current year shall be paid.

Considerable discussion here followed as to the propriety of adopting the resolution and the amount of remuneration to be offered, when it was finally agreed to lay the matter on the table.

COMPLETION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

The Committee on Nominations then presented the completion of their report, as follows:—

Committee on Exection and its Connexions with Conservative Surgery (enlarged).—Drs. Sayre, N. Y., G. W. Morris, Pa., G. C. Blackman, O., S. H. Tewksbury, Me., E. Andrews, Ill., Geo. B. Twitchell, N. H., J. C. Hughes, Iowa, G. Clymer, U.S.N., J. R. W. Dunbar, Md., R. H. Gilbert, U.S.A.

On Drainage and Sewerage of Large Cities and their Influence on Public Health.—Drs. W. J. C. Duhamel, D.C., E. C. Baldwin, Md., Cyrus Ramsay, N. Y.

On Alcohol and its Relations to Man.—Dr. G. E. Morgan.

On Microscopic Observations in Cancer-Cells.—Leonard J. Sandford, Conn.

On Quarantine (continued).

On Medical Ethics.—Drs. J. A. Murphy, Ohio, M. L. Linton, Mo., B. F. Schenck, Pa., Swain Wickersham, Ill., A. J. Fuller, Me.

On the Microscope.—Dr. Jas. M. Corse, Pa.

On Relations which Electricity sustains to the Causes of Disease.—Dr. S. Little, Pa.

On the Morbid and Therapeutic Effects of Mental and Moral Influences.—Dr. A. B. Palmer, Mich.

On the Cause of Extinction of the Aboriginal Races of America (continued).

On the Causes and Treatment of Un-united Fractures.—Dr. F. H. Hamilton, N. Y.

On Diphtheria.—Dr. Lucius Clark, Ill.

On the Uses and Abuses of Pessaries.—Dr. Jas. B. White, N. Y.

On International Medical Ethics.—Drs. J. Baxter Upham, Mass., R. Thompson, Ohio, G. Shattuck, Mass., G. C. Weber, Ohio.

On Climatology and Epidemic Diseases.—Drs. C. W. Parsons, R. I., P. A. Stackpole, N. H., T. M. Logan, Cal., R. C. Hamill, Ill., J. C. Weston, Me., B. H. Cathin, Conn., C. L. Allen, Vt., T. Antisell, Washington, D.C., J. W. H. Baker, Iowa, Abraham Sager, Mich., O. S. Mahon, Md., J. W. Russell, Ohio, D. F. Condie, Pa., H. Townsend, N. Y.

On Autopsies in Relation to Medical Jurisprudence.—Dr. T. C. Finnell, N. Y.

On so-called Spotted Fever.—Dr. J. J. Levick, Pa.

On the Introduction of Disease by Commerce and the Means for its Prevention.—Dr. A. N. Bell, N. Y.

DR. WM. B. ATKINSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PERMANENT SECRETARY.

Permanent Secretary American Medical Association.—DR. WILLIAM B. ATKINSON, of Philadelphia.

Assistant Secretary.—Dr. H. R. Storer, Assistant Secretary.

On Patent Rights and Medical Men.—Drs. David Prince, Ill., Thos. Antisell, D.C., and Stephen Smith, N. Y.

The report, after much discussion in relation to the election of the Secretary, was finally adopted.

It was moved that a Committee be appointed to report at the next meeting on the Ligature of the Subclavian Artery. Adopted, and the following gentlemen selected as that Committee:—Drs. Willard Parker, N. Y., Armsby, Albany, Norris, Philad., and Mussey, Cincinnati, O.

REPORT OF PRIZE COMMITTEE.

The prize was awarded to Dr. S. FLEET SPEIR, for an Essay on the Pathology of Jaundice.

The Association then adjourned until four P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9.—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was duly called to order by the President.

The Chairman of Arrangements announced the following members by invitation:—Drs. Barent Staats, Albany State Medical Society; E. M. Hunt, State Medical Society, New Jersey; H. C. Geely, Indiana.

DR. C. C. COX submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved., That a Committee of three, consisting of Dr. T. L. Smith, of New York, Dr. Wilson Jewell, of Pennsylvania, and Dr. B. F. Bacho, U.S.N., be appointed to memorialize Congress upon the subject of the attempted wrong to the Medical Corps of the Navy, as indicated by widely circulated protest of the line officers of that branch of the service, against the very moderate increase of rank given to medical officers by a General Order of the Department of the 13th March, 1863, which increase in rank by no means corresponds in extent to the advancement in rank of the officers of the line thus protesting.

The following resolutions were also offered and adopted. By DR. RAPHAEL, N. Y.:

Resolved., To amend the fourth article of the Constitution so as to insert after the word ticket (fifth line) the words, "except in case of the President, who shall be nominated and elected by ballot in open session of the Society, the member receiving a majority of all the votes cast to be declared elected."

DR. DUHAMEL, Washington, D.C.:

Resolved., That the members of the American Medical Association tender their thanks to the gentlemen of the medical profession of the city of New York, for the hospitality and civilities extended to them during their stay here.

Resolved., That we also tender our thanks to Mayor Gunther and the gentlemen of the public institutions, who have extended to the members of the Association much kindness and attention.

DR. McGUGIN:

Resolved., That the Committee appointed for the purpose of drafting a suitable bill to be presented to Congress for its consideration and adoption on the subject of the relative rank of medical officers of the army be, and they are hereby instructed to embrace in its provisions a further separation of the Medical Department from the commanding officers of the line, in order to have a more perfect and unrestrained control of its interests and greater efficiency in that branch of the service.

Also by DR. McGUGIN:

Resolved., That each member of the Association is hereby earnestly requested to furnish to the Chairman, or any member of the Standing Committees appointed to report upon the subject assigned them, at the next annual meeting, all facts in his possession, and his experience touching the subject matters upon which said Committee are required to report.

DR. PALMER, Mich.:

Resolved., That, as the representatives of the profession of the country, meeting at the moment when the greatest military collision of modern times is at its acme, producing almost unprecedented numbers of wounded and suffering men, calling for the greatest skill and devotion, imposing the deepest responsibilities, the most intense labors, and the most patient and painful endurance on the part of the military surgeons, we cannot separate without a formal and heartfelt recognition of the services of our brethren in the field and hospitals, who have been and are at this moment so nobly responding to all these demands—and while cherishing their immense and invaluable services as an honor to our profession, we commend these men and the memory of their deeds in the cause of sci-

ence and patriotism, of civil government, of Union, of liberty, of humanity, to the gratitude of the country, whose life as well as that of their heroic patients they are laboring to preserve.

THE SUBJECT OF SPECIALTIES.

DR. HOMBERGER, N. Y., offered a resolution for adoption, which had reference to defining the relations which should exist between specialists and general practitioners of medicine, and moved that the Association, in order properly to consider the matter, should resolve itself into a Committee of the whole.

The resolution was favored by Drs. Elsberg and Gardner, N. Y., Storer, of Boston, and others; but was lost, and a motion prevailed to lay it on the table and have a special Committee of five appointed to report at the next meeting.

The usual resolutions of thanks to the President, Secretary, Committee of Arrangements, and others, were passed without comment.

CONCERNING DR. MORTON, THE ALLEGED DISCOVERER OF ETHER.

DR. HENRY D. NOYES, delegate from the New York Eye Infirmary, offered the following resolution:

Whereas, There is now pending in Congress an appropriation donating to Dr. T. G. Morton, of Boston, the sum of \$200,000, for his services in connexion with the introduction of sulphuric ether as an anaesthetic agent; and

Whereas, The said Dr. Morton, by suits against charitable medical institutions for infringements of an alleged patent covering not only sulphuric ether, but the state of anesthesia however produced, has placed himself beyond the pale of an honorable profession and of true laborers in the cause of science and humanity;

Resolved,, That the American Medical Association enter their protest against any appropriation to the said Dr. Morton, because of his unworthy conduct, also because of his unwarrantable assumption of a patentable right to anesthesia, and further, because private beneficence in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other places, has already sufficiently rewarded him for any claims which he may justly urge.

Resolved,, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Representatives at Washington. Adopted.

DR. RAPHAEL, of New York, believed that Dr. Morton was generally conceded to be the inventor of anesthesia, and as such should receive a due amount of credit and emolument. If Congress thought best to vote that amount of money to the Doctor it had a perfect right so to do, and it was no business of the Association to interfere. He hoped that the resolution would not pass.

(Loud calls for question! question!)

DR. MORAN, of R. I., moved the adoption of the resolution, which motion was carried with but two or three dissenting voices.

The reports of the several Sections were on motion adopted.

Some unfinished business of minor importance was then disposed of, after which the Association adjourned to meet in Boston the first Tuesday in June, 1865.

On Thursday evening the members visited the house and laboratory of Dr. Squibb, in Brooklyn, and were elegantly entertained. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather a large number were present.

On Friday, those of the delegates who remained in town accepted the invitation of the Commissioners of Charity to visit the different institutions under their charge, and on Saturday the invitation of Dr. McDougal, Medical Director, Department of the East, was accepted to visit the Military Hospitals at David's Island, N. Y.

The Meetings of the Sections.

THE afternoons of Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to the meetings of the different sections of the Association.

SURGICAL SECTION.

WEDNESDAY, 3 P.M.

The section assembled at three P.M., and elected Dr. A.

Van Dyck, of Oswego Co., Chairman, and Julius Homberger, N. Y., Secretary.

DR. GURBON BUCK, N. Y., exhibited his case of auto-plastic operations of the face, with which our readers are already familiar. Dr. B. stated, at the conclusion of his presentation, that the case had already been presented to the Medical Society of the State of New York, and was to be published in the Transactions of that body for 1864.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Buck for the exhibition of his very interesting and instructive case.

TREATMENT OF CONGENITAL CLEFT PALATE BY MECHANICAL APPLIANCES.

DR. KINGSLY, N. Y., read a paper on "The Treatment of Congenital Cleft Palate by Mechanical Appliances," in which he assumed the following positions, viz. "1st. The only necessity of operating at all is with a view of improving articulation." "2d. The operation of staphylo-raphy in all decided fissures of the velum is without material results in benefiting the speech." "3d. The only treatment now known which can produce this result is the filling of the fissure with an elastic mechanical appliance." This artificial velum is made of vulcanized rubber, and so formed as to restore as nearly as possible the natural shape of the hard and soft palate, reaching the whole length of the opening, terminating near the fauces. It is so flexible that it may be carried in any direction the muscles act upon it, and so elastic as to regain its position as soon as the muscles are relaxed; and to the eye of the physiologist seems to perform as nearly the function of the natural velum as could be expected of any piece of mechanism. The exhibition of the practical application of this velum in the mouths of patients present elicited the admiration of all who witnessed it, and certainly proved that it was all that was claimed for it. The application of this artificial palate renders it possible for a person suffering from this defect to learn to speak well.

The Paper was referred to the Committee on Publication.

DR. MUSSEY, Ohio, differed with Dr. Kingsley as to the effect which the division of the muscles had upon the speech, and related three cases upon which he had operated by that method with success.

DR. RAPHAEL, N. Y., had seen a number of cases in which such an operation had been performed, but in none of these had the speech been at all improved.

DR. BUCK stated that he had operated upon quite a variety of cases of cleft palate, but he had not met with that success which Dr. Kingsley had by the employment of the vulcanite apparatus already alluded to.

DR. HOMBERGER, N. Y., asked if any of the members had operated upon cases of cleft palate by Langenbeck's method.

DR. POST, N. Y., remarked that in his cases of staphylo-raphy he had endeavored to raise as much of the soft parts from the bone as it was possible to, and supposed that he had raised the periosteum also.

The paper was then referred to the Publishing Committee.

NEW SYRINGE FOR INJECTING THE LACHRYMAL DUCT.

DR. MCFARLAN, N. Y., exhibited a new syringe for the treatment of diseases of the lachrymal duct, and read a description of the instrument. It is composed of a silver canula the thickness of an ordinary probe; the whole is adapted to a small gutta-percha syringe with the capacity of about thirty or forty drops. The tube joins the syringe at a given angle, in order to facilitate its adaptation to the duct into which it is to be introduced. He thought it particularly advantageous in the treatment of that condition of the canal which often remains after a pre-existing stricture has been fully dilated. Under such circumstances there was present a muco-purulent discharge, which was often, by the use of other measures, inclined to be very obstinate and long continued.

DR. HOMBERGER stated that his experience had taught him that, after the stricture had been fully dilated, the discharge which had before existed, and which was coincident with that condition, disappeared entirely.

Some discussion here followed bearing principally upon the practicability of injecting the sac, and was partaken in by Drs. Homberger, McFarlan, Hutchison, and others.

The section then adjourned until three P.M. on Thursday.

**SECTION ON METEOROLOGY, MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY, EPIDEMIC DISEASES, MEDICAL JU-
RISPRUDENCE AND HYGIENE.**

WEDNESDAY, 8 P.M.

The section was organized by the election of S. W. BUTLER, of Pennsylvania, Chairman, and A. N. BELL, of New York, Secretary.

The first business in order was the consideration of Reports of Committees. Dr. Hibbard submitted a report on Compulsory Vaccination, and reported a series of resolutions, which, after being amended, were adopted as follows:

Resolved, That this Association deems it a duty to institute measures looking to the vaccination, ultimately, of every person within the limits of country over which it exercises jurisdiction.

Resolved, That a Central Committee of five be appointed to enlighten the public mind, by all available means, upon the value and necessity of universal vaccination.

Resolved, That the Central Committee be authorized to appoint Associate and Auxiliary Committees in each State.

The adoption of the Report being in order, after much discussion and some modification, it was voted to refer the Report and Resolutions to the Association for publication in the Transactions.

The Report on Military Hygiene was submitted by DR. ANDREWS of Illinois, limited, however, in its scope to the Hygiene of Military Hospitals.

On motion, it was voted that the Report be referred back to the Association for publication in the Transactions.

A voluntary communication on the Physiological and Dietetical Properties of Phosphorus was read by DR. JOHN H. GRISCOM of New York.

After a detailed exposition of the extent and amount in which this substance is found in the various tissues, fluids, secretions, and excretions of the body, there being scarcely one in which it is not a constituent, whereby its importance is properly inferred—the practical application was made of the influence of a deficiency of phosphorus in a variety of diseases of the osseous, nervous, muscular, digestive, and respiratory organs. Scurvy, resulting from too free use of salted food, was shown to be probably due to the loss of the phosphates, which Liebig has proved to be removed by the salt, and is found in the brine. Fresh meat, as well as fresh vegetables, proves to be an anti-scorbutic, doubtless in both cases on account of the phosphoric acid. It was further shown that modern modes of preparing food of several kinds deprived it of this element to a large extent, to which many evil results are attributable. Especially is this the case with that "life-preserver of the world"—the wheat grain. By the bolting process, 1400 per cent. of this element is lost. Several specimens of *Farina Cocido*, or roasted wheat, as extensively used in South America, were presented to the Section, and highly commended as substitutes for superfine flour, retaining as they do all the phosphatic matter of the grain. The paper elicited many favorable remarks, and was unanimously recommended to the Association for publication in the Transactions.

DR. RAMSAY, of New York, submitted a table of sanitary statistics, etc., which, on motion, was referred to the Association with the recommendation that it be referred to the Committee on Publication, with power.

Adjourned till Thursday, 3 P.M.

SECTION OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND OBSTETRICS.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Prof. B. Fordyce Barker, of N. Y., was elected Chairman, and Dr. Storer, of Boston, Secretary.

THE USE OF THE PESSARY IN PROLAPSUS UTERI.

The meeting being organized, and ready for the transaction of business, Dr. GARDNER, of N. Y., read a paper on "The Use of the Pessary in Prolapsus Uteri." He took strong grounds against its use, advocating that it is not only of no avail but absolutely injurious, by inducing irritation to the vagina, etc.

DR. STORER, of Boston, arose and spoke against the argument presented, stating that he had found the pessary of great value in these cases, and cited instances in which it had proved very beneficial.

DR. PEASLEE, of N. Y., also opposed the views of the author, and thought him too general in his statements.

DR. HANCOCK, of N. Y., endorsed the views of Dr. Gardner, and by him a motion was made to refer the paper to the Committee of Publication.

DR. MENDENHALL, of Cincinnati, hoped the Organization would not adopt the views set forth by the author.

DR. GARDNER said it mattered not so much whether his remarks were all true or all not true; he would like them to have publicity, that the profession might be led to give the subject their serious consideration.

DR. TONER thought the Association should publish nothing except what had the sanction of the majority of delegates.

DR. STORER objected to this view of Dr. Toner, and thought the publication of new theories the only sure way to advancement.

A vote was taken on referring it to the Committee of Publication, and carried in the affirmative.

DR. LEVICK was next introduced, and read an article on "Spotted Fever," as regards the propriety of calling it "Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis." He very clearly discussed this point, and showed that it is a *general* and not local affection, and that the cerebro-spinal meninges are not always affected, but that the *lungs, stomach*, and other organs may be diseased as well. He cited a case of a rugged woman who took it in a well marked form, and died in twelve hours; and on a post-mortem examination, the brain and spinal cord were each found to be in a normal condition, while the lungs and other organs were in a state of ecchymosis. Thinks the term "cerebro-spinal meningitis" no more appropriate than to name a *genus* from one of its *species*. The term "spotted fever" is characteristic and should be retained, though "malignant influenza" would be appropriate. Thought the name important, as it had a bearing on the manner of treating it, which he spoke of in a general manner.

DR. LYMAN, of N. Y., concurred in the remarks just made, and thought the views entertained by the author correct, and moved their acceptance.

DR. FISHER, of N. Y., requested that, as the author has already been over this subject, he be invited to furnish the literature of the same, with his mode of treatment, etc.

DR. HOOKER, of New Haven, was convinced that not only the "members with grey hairs," but the students coming on, would be benefited thereby.

DR. GRANTZ wished to call on Dr. Lyman for the plan of treatment he had spoken of, which was briefly given.

DR. LEVICK rose and said he was thankful to the gentlemen of the "section" for their kind reception of his remarks, and stated that his treatment had been quinine and brandy generally; and was of the opinion (though without experience) that turpentine would be beneficial.

DR. McARTHUR, of Illinois, stated cases in which it appeared plain that the disease was due to *miasmatic* influences, and cited instances of a sugar distillery appearing to give rise to it.

DR. CRITTENDEN, of N. Y., thought no regular course of

treatment could be pursued, owing to the different phases presented, etc.

Vote taken and carried to refer the paper to the Committee of Publication.

DR. STORER next presented an article entitled "The Relation of Female Patients to Hospitals for the Insane; the Necessity, on their Account, of a Board of Consulting Physicians to every Hospital." He gave a clear and interesting account of the manner in which these hospitals are usually conducted, showing that all the responsibility rests on the medical superintendent in charge; and thought these females, inasmuch as their insanity is often due to menstrual derangements, should have the benefit of medical advice. He thought the Butler Hospital a model institution in this respect, and hoped this Association would take measures to correct this present existing and unphilanthropic evil, and closed his remarks by offering a resolution in substance (though not in words) as follows:

Resolved, That for each hospital for the insane females, a competent physician be appointed, whose office shall be honorary, to be consulted respecting such females, etc.

DR. GARDNER heartily endorsed the views of the author, and moved they be accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication.

DR. GRISCOM objected to the part of the resolution offered, making the appointment simply an honorary one, and thought that the physician should be paid for his services if doing public service.

DR. GREEN, of Mass., also favored the honorary appointment, and was followed by different members on each side. After a vote to strike out the clause making it "honorary," which was lost by 21 to 22, it was voted to be accepted by the "Section" to be adopted by the Association, and handed over to the Committee of Publication.

An adjournment was then moved and carried, to meet again at same place to-morrow at 3 o'clock P.M.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The Section was called to order by the Chairman.

DR. SANDS read a paper by Dr. H. O. Hitchcock, of Kalamazoo, Mich., upon a case of death from entrance of air into the uterine cavities. We hope to be able to furnish our readers with an abstract of the same at some future time. On motion, it was referred to the Committee on Publication. There being other business for transaction, and the time for adjournment having arrived, it was voted to hold another meeting at 8 P.M.

SECTION ON HYGIENE, ETC.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

DR. JONATHAN KNEELAND, of N. Y., presented a voluntary report on some of the causes promoting the extinction of the Aborigines of America. This paper points out graphically the manifold evils which are surely moving onward towards their certain doom, the Onondagas, one of the six nations of American Indians. The power of syphilis, scrofula, and the vices of civilization, engrafted upon the improvidence of barbarism, are set forth, and the physical peculiarities of this strange people are ingeniously pointed out.

The report was, on motion, referred to the Association, with the recommendation that it be sent to the Committee of Publication for publication in its Transactions.

DR. THOMPSON, of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Milk Sickness, presented a report, which, on motion, was referred to the Association for publication.

DR. CHARLES W. PARSONS, of Rhode Island, presented a Special Report on the Medical Topography and Epidemic Diseases of Rhode Island, which, on motion, was referred for publication. On motion, the section adjourned.

SECTION ON MATERIA MEDICA

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

At the meeting of the Section of Chemistry and Materia Medica, held at 3 P.M. Thursday, Dr. Griscom, of N. Y., was elected Chairman, and Dr. Jas. Hart Curry, of Westchester Co., Secretary.

Dr. McGOWAN, of Washington, D.C., presented, through Dr. Griscom, a communication upon "The Introduction and Cultivation of the Cinchona Plant into the Island of Hayti."

Referred to Committee of Publication.

Dr. E. R. Squibb presented his paper from the Committee upon the Practical Working of the U. S. Law, "To prevent the Importation of Adulterated and Spurious Drugs and Medicines."

The paper was discussed by Drs. Percy, Squibb, Mussey, Brown, of Providence, and Hutchinson, N. Y.

Dr. Hutchinson moved to refer to the Association with a recommendation that it be published.

On motion, an amendment was proposed of striking out certain parts of the report in conclusion relating to personalities, which was lost, and the original resolution carried.

The Section then adjourned.

Reports of Hospitals.

U. S. GENERAL HOSPITAL, CHRISTIAN STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

REPORT ON REFLEX PARALYSIS,

BY S. WEIR MITCHELL, M.D.; GEO. R. MOREHOUSE, M.D.; AND WM. W. KEEN, JR., M.D.

(Continued from page 261.)

The patient, it should be noted, was not injured by his fall, and, as we have seen, showed no signs of concussion. He, as well as his medical attendant, attributed the phenomena which he exhibited to the shock given to the auditory nerve. This opinion has since been confirmed by the cases reported by M. Brown-Séquard and others. Further on we shall show that in rare cases gunshot wounds cause partial or very general paralysis of grave type and prolonged duration in parts not directly injured; we shall also show that these protracted paralyses must be due to an equally permanent affection of the nerve centres. Now, if this be possible, there is every reason to believe that a temporary, though general, paralysis may take place in a large number of gunshot wounds. When the cardiac centres feel the shock most severely, the feebleness will of course be greater; but there is much reason to suppose that the cerebral and spinal centres in general suffer *en masse* in every case of loss of consciousness from shock. As we proceed, we shall have occasion to discuss the mechanism of the more permanent forms of reflex paralysis. Here we desire only to show that the effect of grave wounds is to cause a condition of the centres which gives rise to a general and profound feebleness, and that in rare cases the central effect is so intense as in some way to cause paralysis, which may last for hours, days, or months. Another class of nerve affections demands some notice before we discuss the undoubted instances of reflex paralysis from wounds which have fallen under our notice. These are what the French writers call cases of injury from commotion. They differ from those we have described in being due to the mere mechanical effect produced upon the neighboring parts. If, for example, a ball passes near the spinal column, it is conceivable that the roll of its motion and the resistance of the tissues, may determine in the spine a brusque and sudden oscillation of the contents, sufficient to cause very grave results. We have sometimes seen this illustrated in a very interesting shape, and in a less dangerous form. Thus, in the case of a soldier who was shot at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, the ball entered the cheek, and passing outside of the ramus of the jaw, was cut out of the trapezius muscle. It struck the ramus, but did not fracture it, or interfere with the act of mastication. In October, one or two very minute morsels of bone escaped from the neck, in front of, and four inches below, the jaw. The only injury to the jaw-bone must have been on

its exterior surface, from which the pieces of bone alluded to worked down the tissues of the neck. The shock caused complete paralysis of the inferior dental nerve, with absolute anesthesia, analgesia, and loss of sense of temperature in the lower lip and chin of the injured side. The sensation was for the most part rapidly restored by the use of cutaneous faradization, after the nerve had been allowed time to recover from the results of the shock it had sustained. A portion of the lip, the skin below it, and the mucous membrane within, still remain rebellious to treatment.

The other case of mechanical shock to a nervous structure we shall report at length. It is one as to which there may reasonably exist some doubt, whether to call it an instance of commotion of the spinal cord, from injury of neighboring parts, or to regard it as an impression made upon the spinal centre through the injured nerves, and resulting in a paralysis, as the reflected result of the state into which the centres were thus thrown. It is impossible to be sure that both sets of causes may not have been at work.

(To be continued.)

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

FRACTURE OF THE LEG.

(Continued from page 271.)

DR. H. RAPHAEL, late House Surgeon of this hospital, has published in the AMERICAN MEDICAL TIMES, Aug. 15th, 1863, a modification of Pott's splint, made by himself, so that after its application to the leg, extension may be made by an endless screw. The Doctor published four cases in connexion, which had been treated upon the splint thus modified, and of these he says: "These cases have been examined by some of our most distinguished surgeons, who expressed their entire satisfaction with the results thus obtained." The modification certainly renders Pott's splint a better surgical appliance, and it would be rendered more efficient still had there been two nuts instead of one, about three inches apart upon each piece, which would correct the tendency of the splint to bend upon itself.

The side or profile splint made of wood, and which is employed by nearly every surgeon in the land, cannot be compared in efficiency to the leather splint; for no matter how full be the set with which the surgeon has supplied his office, he will often find it difficult to get one which will fit the leg, besides being more difficult of retention than the leather for the same reason. In fine, the leather will do all that can be claimed for the wooden splint, and do it too with much more convenience and accuracy.

Soon after the publication by Dr. JOHN SWINBURNE of his paper on the "Treatment of Fractures of Long Bones by Simple Extension," his splint for fractures of the leg was put in use in this hospital, and was pretty extensively employed up to within a few months of the present time, since which it has gradually fallen into disuse. Dr. Swinburne says:—"I feel that the profession is not fully aware of the many bad results of oblique, compound, and comminuted fractures of the leg; as for myself, astonished at finding so many (when my attention was called to the fact), I was led to investigate the cause. Since this time I have not lost sight of the subject, and have treated all my cases of oblique and compound fractures of the tibia and fibula, and in fine all those where any displacement is anticipated, by extension and counter-extension." Precisely what class of cases is meant by "those where any displacement is anticipated" we will not pretend to decide, unless it be those cases in which it is difficult to keep the bones in perfect apposition, by means of simple splints of coaptation. The practice of the hospital with Dr. Swinburne's splint was to apply it to nearly all cases of fracture of the tibia and fibula, simple, compound, and complicated, with or without displacement, making more or less extension as the nature of the case suggested—(for the description of the splint and the method of application the reader is referred to the original paper); and the result of this prac-

tice is contained in the following criticism:—For fractures of either the tibia or fibula separately, or of both together, without displacement, the splint is not so available as splints of coaptation, which are all that is required in these cases, and have the advantage over Swinburne's apparatus of allowing the patient to leave the bed; but it is fair to state that this class of fractures is not included among those for which the author recommends his apparatus. In oblique and compound fractures, where the fragments override and extension is indicated, Dr. Swinburne's splint is correct in theory, but in practice gives us no better results, with greater inconvenience than other dressings; and, after its application in many of these cases, it has been cast aside for other and more efficient apparatus. We cannot secure the foot so as to make any considerable amount of permanent extension without raising the heel, so that all the stress of the adhesive plaster comes upon the instep, and in this way the extension is either nullified or directly productive of discomfort to the patient, and in some cases, as fractures at or near the malleoli, of absolute deformity. If it be attempted to secure the heel by strips of plaster, ulceration is the consequence; besides, we do not think of using the splint without the assistance of sand-bags, which act as splints and assist very materially in preserving the shape of the limb. The conclusion then, is, that Swinburne's apparatus will often accomplish good results, but not so efficiently and with more inconvenience than the leather splints. In Pott's fracture, with luxation of the foot, we have obtained the most perfect results with the leather; so much so, that Dupuytren's splint is not used at all in many of the wards. The following cases may serve to illustrate its effects:—

CASE 1.—*M. Q.*, *æt. 40*, admitted Jan. 22d, 1864. While walking on the pavement his foot slipped and turned inwards (he thinks), and immediately he was unable to walk; was brought to the hospital with the foot and ankle much swollen, and a fracture of the fibula was found about three inches above its lower extremity; the foot was placed between sand bags, and cold water dressings applied. In a few days the tumefaction entirely subsided, when it was found that a piece was chopped off from the inner malleolus. At this time the whole foot was dislocated backwards by the action of the posterior muscles, and looked as though union, with a considerable deformity, must be the inevitable result. Two leather splints were moulded and bandaged to the foot, which was then forcibly extended and flexed upon the leg, while the side-pieces were secured to the leg. Feb. 14th the dressings were removed, and the ankle looked natural. Splints reapplied. March 1st.—Dressings again removed, and not the least deformity can be discovered. March 6th.—Patient is walking about, and a medical gentleman could not tell which ankle had been broken.

CASE 2.—*M. II.*, *æt. 12*, admitted Feb. 13th, had the fibula fractured $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches above its lower extremity by direct violence. The foot was displaced outwards at an angle of about 45° , and the integument over the inner malleolus was tense and ecchymotic; the foot was reduced, and leather splints applied. March 1st.—Dressings removed, and the ankle in excellent shape. March 18th.—The union is firm, and no deformity discoverable. Both of these patients were allowed to get up and go about on crutches, and in neither could the least deformity be recognised.

The plaster-of-Paris splints now employed in the New York Hospital for fractures of the leg, nearly to the exclusion of all others, have been used occasionally in this hospital since the publication, by Dr. James L. Little, of his valuable article upon "The Treatment of Fractures by Plaster-of-Paris Splints." Dr. Little, then Resident Surgeon of the New York Hospital, read the letters of Drs. Smith and Swan, from Paris, stating that Maisonneuve had revived and modified the use of this material for the treatment of fractures. The Dr. next employed the plaster-of-Paris as splints in the New York Hospital, and for the success at-

tending its use the reader is referred to his paper, which may be found in the *AMERICAN MED. TIMES*, Dec. 7th, 1861. This material makes an excellent dressing for nearly every fracture of the leg, and, like the leather, does not confine the patient to his bed. Inasmuch as it may not be convenient for all to refer to Dr. Little's paper, we will simply describe the method of its use which obtains at present in the New York Hospital:—A piece of Canton flannel, which, when doubled, shall be wide enough to encircle the leg for rather more than half its circumference, and of sufficient length to extend from just below the knee to about five inches below the heel, is first wrung out of water, and then saturated in a mixture of equal parts of finely ground plaster-of-Paris and water; next smoothe out the Canton flannel thus saturated, and spread it upon an even surface beneath the fractured leg; now getting the leg in position, the flannel is smoothly and expeditiously applied to the leg upon each side; the portion extending below the heel is next brought up against the sole of the foot, and the sides over the dorsum of the foot; the dressing is completed by passing a roller from the toes to the knee; the plaster sets in a few minutes, and after it has thoroughly solidified, the roller may be removed, and strips of adhesive plaster passed around the limb, which leaves the anterior portion of the leg exposed to view. As has already been stated, this dressing is applicable to nearly all cases of fracture of the tibia and fibula, except to those cases of Pott's fracture with luxation of the foot, in which the displacement is not easily reduced and retained—just the class of cases in which the leather splints exhibit some of their best effects.

The reason why the plaster is not used more extensively in this hospital is, because all that can be done by it can be accomplished by the leather, which is cleaner, can be adapted with more leisure, and is applicable to a larger class of cases.

American Medical Times.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1864.

THE LATE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION has closed its FIFTEENTH annual session and dispersed. As we had anticipated, the meeting was a decided success. The attendance equalled that of the best days of the Association in ante-rebellious times. Delegates were present from every section of the loyal States, and from the army and navy. The utmost good feeling prevailed throughout the session, and every member seemed to regard this great national reunion as an occasion of especial personal enjoyment.

A perusal of the proceedings, which we present as completely as our columns will admit, will give some idea of the labors of the Association and the character of the questions submitted to its consideration. Every subject was fully, we might say superabundantly discussed, and in the main the decisions were made with decided majorities, and were gracefully acquiesced in by the minorities.

The choice of President fell upon PROFESSOR DAVIS, of Chicago, with marked unanimity. As one of the projectors of the ASSOCIATION, and as an ardent and earnest laborer in the promotion of its interests, he is entitled to whatever honors it can confer. To no other member is the ASSOCIATION more indebted for the perfection of its organization, and for the high and influential position which it has attained. Worthily, however, as PROF. DAVIS fills the office of President, we should have preferred to see

this highest position in the gift of the profession conferred upon one whose name to-day confessedly outranks all living medical men, but whom, in the natural order of things, we cannot much longer honor. The Association has heretofore acted wisely in selecting a President from among its eminent senior members, and it is a pleasant reflection that the names of CHAPMAN, WARREN, IVES, etc., are enrolled on this honorable record. Younger members can afford to waive these distinctions for the present, in favor of those whom the universal profession desires to honor, but who are soon to pass from the stage of action.

The Permanent Secretaryship was established by a unanimous vote, and DR. WM. B. ATKINSON, of Philadelphia, was selected to fill the position. The office is a most important one, and, if its duties are efficiently discharged, will have a marked influence upon the future success of the Association. No large and extended organization can be efficiently managed without the ceaseless activity of a capable business officer, who shall constantly and intelligently supervise the details of its affairs. In the selection of its first Permanent Secretary the Association has, we believe, acted with signal discretion. DR. ATKINSON has had large experience as secretary of various medical organizations, is Permanent Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, and has always proved untiring in the discharge of the laborious, tiresome, but responsible duties of that office. Under his management the affairs of the Association will, we believe, assume a more business-like aspect, and its general interests will be greatly increased.

The voluntary papers and the reports were, on the whole, creditable to their authors. There was not, however, that maturity of thought and expression which result from careful investigations and long continued study. This is principally due to the haste with which papers and reports were prepared, and will be obviated in part by the more regular and systematic meetings of the Association. A number of prize papers were presented, and it is highly creditable to the literary and scientific ability of DR. SPEIR that he carried off the prize in the face of the powerful competition.

Among the distinguished members of the profession present we noticed DR. BROWN-SEQUARD, of London; DR. USHER PARSONS, of R. I.; DR. THOMAS COCK, N. Y.; DR. H. H. CHILDS, of Mass.; DR. C. S. TRIFLER, U.S.A.; DR. J. KNIGHT, Conn.; DR. R. LA ROCHE, of Phila.; DR. C. A. LEE, of N. Y.

INSANE COLONIES IN FRANCE.

THE French Government has finally determined to adopt the system of free air treatment of the insane, as carried out at Gheel, and so eloquently advocated by DR. PARIGOT of this city. The Council-General of the Rhone, according to the *Med. Times and Gazette*, has recently voted the funds necessary for placing in families one hundred indigent insane persons whose mental condition does not necessitate their sequestration in an asylum. The indigent insane recognised as incurable and inoffensive in the Antiquaille Asylum, are placed out on recommendation of the chief physician. "Without doubt," observes M. GARNIER, in the *Union Médicale*, "this example will become promptly contagious; and this will be much to be commended, providing that there be constituted a medical and administrative inspection of these patients, as in the case of foundlings. Unable

to restore their moral health to these poor creatures, we can at least provide for their physical well-being, by this family regimen, life in the open air and varied labors, which are more likely to conduce to it than the residence in an asylum. For the safety of the families concerned and the success of the experiment, care must be taken that the persons selected are both incurable and harmless."

TETANUS IN THE ARMY.

TETANUS has prevailed among the wounded of the Army of the Potomac to an unusual extent. Upwards of fifty cases occurred within a short period at Fredericksburg and in the hospitals at Washington. Nearly every case proved rapidly fatal. We are glad to learn that DR. BROWN-SEQUARD, of London, now in this country, has consented to give a lecture on this disease, at Washington, where it is now most prevalent. The great experience of this eminent physiologist in the treatment of nervous affections will thus be made available to the army surgeons in the management of this obscure and fatal complication of gunshot wounds. This lecture will be immediately published for circulation in the army.

ADVANCE IN THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

By an announcement in another column of this number it will be seen that the Publishers have advanced the subscription price of this Journal to Five Dollars per annum. This is due to the extraordinary rise in the prices of paper, printing, etc., which have added more than fifty per cent. to the cost of the work. At the former rates this Journal was the cheapest medical journal published, furnishing from three to eight times as much printed matter as other journals of the same subscription price. To continue its publication at the former rate, with the present advanced prices in all kinds of printing material, would in effect reduce its subscription to mere gratuity. The advance now made simply places the *MEDICAL TIMES* upon nearly the same basis on which it was first established.

Reviews.

RECORDS OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, CONVENED IN PORTLAND, JUNE 10, 1863.

The Annual Address, by DR. J. T. DANA, is principally devoted to the discussion of "*Medical Esprit du Corps*," a full development of which begets appreciation of the objects of the Association, fraternal interest of its members, and the recognition of certain obligations. The only scientific paper is a *Report upon Pharmacy*, by DR. H. T. CUMMING, embracing some of the recent improvements in pharmacy.

THE NERVOUS AND VASCULAR CONNEXION BETWEEN THE MOTHER AND FETUS IN UTERO. BY JOHN O'REILLY, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.

With his characteristic originality and ingenuity, DR. O'Reilly labors to prove that there is a nervous connexion by which impressions are conveyed from the mother to the fetus in utero, a doctrine hitherto ignored by a large portion of the medical profession. Many curious facts are given for the support of his theory, and cases recited of various deformities in the child, following some supposed impression conveyed from the mother while pregnant. If we are always to regard a *post hoc* as a *proper hoc*, we must accept these cases as genuine illustrations of an established fact; otherwise we may call them remarkable coincidences. We

fancy there are few women who pass through their entire term of gestation without being at some time startled, either by strange sights or sounds; and should the impression thus produced be conveyed to the fetus, we fear the world would be filled with a race of monsters. Yet, however sceptical we may be on this point, we have been deeply interested in the perusal of the book, and commend it to the consideration of our readers.

Correspondence.

CANCER OF THE STOMACH.

[To the Editor of the AMERICAN MEDICAL TIMES.]

SIR—About three months ago a female patient in this institution, aged 75 years, began to complain that, after eating two or three mouthfuls of food, she became so nauseated as not to be able to swallow any more. This extreme nausea was the only symptom of which she then complained. There was very little tenderness on pressure over the stomach; no tumor could be felt in this region nor at any time during the history of the case, though frequent and thorough examinations were made. There was no vomiting, unless persevering efforts were made to force down food after the stomach had revolted against it; and then every particle which had been taken seemed to be ejected. Pain was not complained of until two or three weeks before the patient died, and it continued more or less severe till that event took place. The complexion was that peculiar to cancerous cachexia. The patient lingered until April 30th, when she died, very much emaciated. On post-mortem examination, forty-eight hours afterwards, the posterior wall of the left extremity of the stomach was found to be the seat of cancer. The deposit was confined principally to that portion of the organ which lies in contact with the spleen. The coats were perforated in several places; one of the perforations was as large as a silver quarter. There was very little thickening of the part, which accounts for our inability to detect a tumor during life. There was no obstruction of the passage between the esophagus and the stomach, nor was the pyloric opening involved.

Perhaps it may be interesting to give a brief history of another case of the same disease which occurred in our hospital, as it contrasts very strikingly in many particulars with the preceding one:—

John Kerrigan, an Irish laborer, aged 56 years, came to us on the 23d of October last, complaining of great soreness over the stomach, frequent regurgitations of portions of the contents of that organ, in a very sour state, and an inability to take solid food in consequence of the severe pain which it excited. The patient was very feeble and much emaciated, and had the complexion so characteristic of the cancerous diathesis. On examination of the abdomen there seemed to be some fulness over the stomach, and dulness on percussion, with much tenderness, which prevented the exploration being thorough and satisfactory. In the course of three or four weeks after his admission an undue prominence began to be very apparent over the left extremity of the stomach, which continued to increase until his death, when a large tumor was well defined by the elevation of the walls of the abdomen. There was no vomiting until twelve or fourteen days before the termination of the case, and it at once became a prominent symptom, continuing more or less copiously until that event.

The patient died on the 23d Dec., and the autopsy affirmed the diagnosis which was made in the early history of the case, namely, cancer of the stomach. The deposit was confined principally to the large arch of the organ, and formed a considerable tumor. There were no perforations, but there were some deep ulcers, one of which had so nearly perforated the wall, it was a matter of surprise that the remaining fibres of peritoneal coat should not have

given way in some of the efforts of vomiting. The orifices of the stomach were not at all involved; there were, however, cancerous deposits in other parts of the alimentary canal.

MARSHALL INFIRMARY, TROY, N. Y.,
May 24th, 1864.

VARIOLA UPON ONE HALF OF THE BODY.

(To the Editor of the AMERICAN MEDICAL TIMES.)

SIR—Your correspondent, Dr. RAYMOND, of Michigan, propounds some queries in regard to his case of one-sided variolous eruption which I propose briefly to answer.

He asks:—Did the vaccination, thirty-six years ago, only affect or protect the right side?

I answer—Such a supposition is contrary to all theory and known facts in the history of vaccination.

Secondly—Would he have escaped had the child slept on the right side of him?

Ans.—No.

Thirdly—Why should the eruption have been confined to the side on which he was not vaccinated?

Ans.—Because the child slept on that side.

Fourthly—Is it essential to vaccinate in both arms in order to be wholly protected from the contagion of small-pox?

Ans.—No. Yet other things being equal, the greater the number of insertions of the vaccine virus the greater the immunity from small-pox contagion and serious results. This fact is proved by recent statistics compiled from a large number of cases.

There is a case at this time in the pest-house connected with the U.S.A. General Hospital in this city, which, in my opinion, explains all the phenomena in the above case. One of the *nurses* has some pustules upon his fingers and face, but has no *constitutional symptoms* whatever. They are the *local* effects merely of the virus upon the skin. Being an experienced nurse in small-pox hospitals, he regards the eruptions as of common occurrence, and has experienced them frequently in his person.

D. W. FLORA,
A. A. Surg. U.S.A.

MADISON, IND., May 1st, 1864.

Army and Navy.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D.C., June 1, 1864.

General Orders No. 191, of May 7th, 1864, declare all Prisoners of War of the Federal Army, on parole at that date, exchanged; and at the request of the Commissary-General of Prisoners, Surgeons-in-charge are directed to take up on the same rolls as other soldiers, all Paroled Prisoners who were in any of the United States General Hospitals at the date of the General Order, and report them to Colonel Hoffman, Commissary General of Prisoners of War, as so transferred.

By order of the Acting Surgeon-General:

C. H. CRANE,
Surgeon, U.S.A.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D.C., June 4, 1864.

The following Circular from the War Department is respectfully furnished for your information and guidance.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, May 25, 1864.

CIRCULAR NO. 41.—1. The Secretary of War directs, that in cases where officers and enlisted men (such as exchanged prisoners, convalescents, etc.), are to be sent to their regiments in the field, they shall not be forwarded, unless it is probable that they will reach their regiments in time to serve at least ten days before the expiration of their term of service.

2. The attention of all commanders is invited to the orders from this Office, directing that the men whose term of service expire at the expiration of the original term of the regiment, should be sent to the State to which the regiment belongs, to be mustered out under the Superintendence of the Chief Mustering Officer of the State. When

the term of service of enlisted men expires at other times, they should be mustered out of service by the Commissary or Assistant Commissary of Musters of the command in which they may be serving. When enlisted men are too sick to travel to the proper place of muster-out, they will be discharged for disability, in the usual way, stating in addition the fact that the soldier's term of service has expired. The discharge of men of the Veteran Reserve Corps is provided for by Circular No. 12, current series, from this Office.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

By order of the Acting Surgeon-General:

C. H. CRANE,
Surgeon, U.S.A.

ORDERS, CHANGES, &c.

ASSIGNMENTS.

Assistant-Surgeon G. M. Sternberg, U.S.A., as Surgeon-in-charge, General Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

Surgeon J. J. Delamater, U.S.V., as Surgeon-in-Chief, General Shep-ley's command, Norfolk, Va.

Surgeon M. Goldsmith, U.S.V., to the Red River Expedition (temporarily).

Surgeon Samuel Hart, U.S.V., as Surgeon-in-charge, General Hospital, Tullahoma, Tenn.

Surgeon W. A. Conover, U.S.V., as Medical Inspector, 18th Army Corps. Acting Assistant-Surgeon W. H. Curran, U.S.A., to Camp Hospital, Louisville, Ky.

Assistant-Surgeon B. McCluer, U.S.V., to General Hospital, Madison, Ind.

Surgeon G. R. Weeks, U.S.V., as Medical Inspector, Department of Arkansas.

Surgeon J. J. Craven, U.S.V., as Medical Director, 18th Army Corps, Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

Surgeon Henry Eversman, U.S.V., as Chief Medical Officer at Johnson's Island, Ohio.

Surgeon W. D. Stewart, U.S.V., as Surgeon-in-Chief, Reserve Division, Department of West Virginia.

Surgeon T. B. Reed, U.S.V., as Assistant Medical Director in the field, Department of West Virginia.

Assistant-Surgeon W. T. Okie, U.S.A., as Surgeon-in-charge, General Hospital (Joe Holt), Jeffersonville, Ind.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon W. H. Curran, U.S.A., to Camp Hospital, Louisville, Ky.

Hospital Chaplain W. M. Grimes, to Totten Hospital, Louisville, Ky.

Assistant-Surgeon J. Y. Castwell, U.S.V., to charge of the Hospital Transport "Ashland."

Surgeon C. C. Dunreacher, U.S.V., to Fort Dallas, Oregon, to accompany Indian Expedition.

Surgeon A. L. Cox, U.S.V., as Surgeon-in-Chief, 1st Division, 20th Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

Assistant-Surgeon S. B. Ward, U.S.V., to 3d Division, General Hospital, Alexandria, Va.

Surgeon W. I. Wolfley, U.S.V., as Surgeon-in-Chief, De Russey's Division, Arlington, Va.

Surgeon A. H. Thurston, U.S.V., as Medical Inspector of Hospitals, Department of Washington.

Surgeon F. H. Gross, U.S.V., as Medical Director of Hospitals, Annapolis, Md.

Surgeon R. A. Christian, U.S.V., to Philadelphia, Pa.

Surgeon C. F. H. Campbell, U.S.V., as Medical Inspector of Hospitals, Middle Department.

Surgeon A. J. Phelps, U.S.V., to special duty with the Medical Director, Army of the Potomac.

Hospital Steward G. Palazzotto, 4th New York Cavalry, to the General Hospital, Annapolis, Md.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon Edward David has been relieved from duty at Elmira, N. Y., and assigned to duty Fairfax Seminary Hospital, Va.

ORDERS.

Assistant-Surgeons E. M. Powers and J. H. Ledlie, U.S.V., to report to the Commanding General, Department of Missouri.

Assistant-Surgeons Benj. Durham, A. McMahon, and J. B. Petherbridge, U.S.V., to report to the Commanding General, Department of the Gulf.

Surgeon George W. Hogeboom, U.S.V., is relieved from duty in the Department of Missouri, and will report to the Commanding General, Department of Kansas.

Assistant-Surgeons E. A. Clark, M. B. Cochran, and H. W. Davis, U.S.V., will report to the Commanding General, Department of Arkansas.

Assistant-Surgeons D. R. Brower and Geo. Derby, U.S.V., will report to the Commanding General, Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

Assistant-Surgeon Thomas R. Pooley, U.S.V., will report to the Commanding General, Army of the Potomac.

Assistant-Surgeon M. F. Cogswell, U.S.V., will report to the Commanding General, Department of the East, for assignment to duty at Albany, N. Y.

Surgeon R. H. Gilbert, U.S.V., now on sick leave, will report in person to Assistant-Surgeon General R. C. Wood, U.S.A., Louisville, Ky., for assignment to such duty as his health will permit, as soon as able to travel.

Surgeons C. S. Tripler and H. R. Wirtz, U.S.A., and Surgeons Thos. Antisell and C. C. Cox, U.S.V., are detailed to represent the Medical Department of the U. S. Army, at the meeting of the American Medical Association in New York city, June 7, 1864.

Assistant-Surgeon Brinton Stone, U.S.V., will report to the Surgeon-General, U.S.A., for duty in his office.

Surgeon Whitehill on being relieved will report to the Commanding General, Northern Department.

Surgeon D. B. Sturgeon, U.S.V., now on leave of absence, will at once rejoin his proper station in the Department of New Mexico.

A Board to consist of Surgeon E. H. Abadie, U.S.A., Surgeon Jonathan Letterman, U.S.A., and Assistant-Surgeon E. S. Dunster, U.S.A., will assemble at West Point, N. Y., to examine into the physical qualifications of the members of the Graduating Class. The same Board will continue in session until they have examined into the physical condition of all newly appointed Cadets, and will report their proceedings to the War Department.

The following Officers unconditionally released by the rebel authorities, will proceed without delay to rejoin their respective commands:—

Surgeon N. F. Graham, 12th Ohio Vols., Assistant-Surgeon W. S. Newton, 91st Ohio Vols., Surgeon N. D. Ferguson, 5th New York Cavalry, Assistant-Surgeon D. W. Richards, 145th Pennsylvania Vols., Surgeon W. S. Welsh, 15th West Virginia Vols., Assistant-Surgeon J. D. Johnson, same regiment, Surgeon C. H. Thatcher, 14th West Virginia Vols., and Chaplain John L. Irwin, same regiment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Surgeon J. B. G. Baxter, U.S.V. (20) twenty days leave from Department of the Gulf, with permission to apply for forty days' extension.

Surgeon N. E. Derby, U.S.V., for sixty days on Surgeon's certificate of disability.

Surgeon A. P. Dalrymple, U.S.V., for twenty days.

RESIGNATIONS.

Surgeons W. C. Otterson, U.S.V., to take effect May 25, 1864.

Surgeon Bernard Beust, U.S.V., to take effect May 26, 1864.

Chaplain Joseph Finlon, U.S.A., to take effect May 5, 1864.

DISCHARGES, DISMISSELS, ETC.

Medical Cadet J. W. Magruder, U.S.A., honorably discharged to enable him to accept an appointment as Acting Assistant-Surgeon U.S.A.

Hospital Steward J. F. Evans, U.S.A., dishonorably discharged for drunkenness.

Assistant-Surgeon Frederick W. Simpson, 72d New York Vols., having failed to appear before a Military Commission as ordered, is dismissed May 9, 1864, for absence without leave.

Assistant-Surgeon C. Teal, 29th Iowa Vols., having been examined by a Military Board, and an adverse report made in his case, is discharged the service.

Assistant-Surgeons W. I. Wolfley, 68d, and H. Z. Gill, 95th Ohio Vols., honorably discharged on tender of resignation, to accept new appointments.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant-Surgeons J. Y. Castwell, Wm. I. Wolfley, H. E. Goodman, and H. L. W. Burritt, U.S.V., to be Surgeons of Volunteers.

APPOINTMENTS.

Assistant-Surgeon David McKay, 79th New York Vols., to be Surgeon 29th U. S. Colored Troops.

Dr. L. C. Chapin, of Connecticut, to be Surgeon 28th U. S. Colored Troops.

NAVY.

Regular Navy Orders.

Surgeon John Thornley detached from the Naval Rendezvous, New York, and awaiting orders.

Surgeon Robert Woodworth ordered to the Naval Rendezvous, New York.

Surgeon William E. Taylor detached from the Carora and waiting orders.

Assistant-Surgeon Wm. H. Jones ordered to the Practice Steamer Marblehead.

Assistant-Surgeon W. S. Oberly detached from the Naval Academy and ordered to the Practice Ship Macedonian.

Assistant-Surgeon Adolph A. Hochling detached from the Roanoke and waiting orders.

Assistant-Surgeon George W. Woods ordered to the Roanoke.

Assistant-Surgeon G. H. E. Baumgarten ordered to the Naval Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

Surgeon H. F. McSherry detached from the Naval Hospital, Memphis Tenn., and waiting orders.

Surgeon F. M. Potter detached from the Receiving Ship Ohio, and ordered to the Niagara New York.

Surgeon Edward F. Corson ordered to the Receiving Ship Ohio.

Assistant-Surgeon Edward S. Matthews to report at Philadelphia, Pa., for examination for promotion.

Assistant-Surgeon Samuel W. Abbott, U. S. S. Niagara, resignation accepted.

Assistant-Surgeon Josiah H. Gunning ordered to the Naval Hospital, New York, for duty.

Assistant-Surgeon E. S. Bogert detached from the Naval Hospital, New York, and ordered to the U. S. S. Niagara.

Volunteer Naval List.

Wm. J. Simon appointed Acting Assistant-Surgeon, and ordered to the Princeton, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Charles S. Green appointed an Acting Assistant-Surgeon, and waiting orders.

Isidore Dowling appointed Acting Assistant-Surgeon, and ordered to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Edward W. Avery appointed Acting Assistant-Surgeon, and ordered to the Banshee, at New York.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon Henry Shaw, of the Ethan Allen, resignation accepted, to take effect on the reporting of Acting Assistant-Surgeon Dowling.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon D. J. Harris detached from the North Carolina, at New York, and ordered to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon W. W. Howard ordered to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon Wm. Nick detached from the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, and ordered North.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon John W. Hamilton detached from the Catskill and waiting orders.

Acting Assistant-Surgeon Benjamin Marshall ordered to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

OCT 22 1864

MARRIED.—In the Baptist Church at East Bethel, Vt., May 24, 1864, Dr. H. T. Hanks, of Royalston, Mass., and Miss Martha E. Firk, of East Bethel, Vt.

BOOKS RECEIVED:—Hodge's *Obstetrics*; *Bumstead on Venereal*.

COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM Wm. R. SMITH, M.D., CAIRO, ILL.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—QUERY.—Will some of your numerous readers inform me, through your journal, as to the possibility of a snake or lizard inhabiting the alimentary canal?

BELLEVUE, M.D.

METEOROLOGY AND NECROLOGY OF THE WEEK IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

Abstract of the Official Report.

From the 23d day of May to the 30th day of May, 1864.

Deaths.—Men, 115; women, 82; boys, 189; girls, 112. Children born of native parents, 39; foreign, 195; not stated, 19; total, 448. Adults, 195; children, 251; males, 252; females, 194; colored persons, 19; infants under two years of age, 129.

Among the causes of death we notice:—Erysipelas, 0; albuminuria, 7; apoplexy, 2; infantile convulsions, 80; croup, 18; diphtherite, 23; scarlet fever, 19; pulmonary fever, 0; typhus and typhoid fevers, 81; consumption, 63; small-pox, 10; measles, 10; dropsy in head, 28; infantile marasmus, 18; whooping-cough, 1; inflammation of brain, 14; of bowels, 10; of lungs, 30; bronchitis, 2; diarrhea and dysentery, 7. 228 deaths occurred from acute diseases, and 40 from violent causes. 276 were native, and 172 foreign; of whom 109 came from Ireland; 39 died in the City Charities, of whom 18 were in Bellevue Hospital, and 17 died in the Immigrant Institution.

Abstract of the Atmospheric Record of the Eastern Dispensary, kept in the Market Building, No. 57 Essex street, New York.

May 1864.	SIX A.M.		TWO P.M.		TEN P.M.		
	Minimum Temperature.	Temperature.	Evap. Below.	Barometer.	Wind.	Wind.	
23d.	50 54 4	29.74	W.	75 7 29.81	S.W.	63 3 29.90	S.
24d.	47 48 5	29.93	S.	70 7 29.97	S.W.	62 4 29.92	S.
24th.	50 50 2	29.86	Fog.	63 4 29.84	N.E.	50 3 29.85	N.E.
25th.	47 49 2	29.85	Fog.	61 4 29.83	N.E.	54 4 29.84	N.E.
26th.	44 45 4	29.70	N.E.	58 1 29.60	N.E.	57 1 29.40	N.E.
27th.	50 51 1	29.50	N.E.	70 5 29.76	S.W.	60 3 29.74	S.W.
28th.	48 49 4	29.81	N.E.	68 7 29.88	N.W.	56 4 29.57	N.W.

REMARKS.—224, Variable; mostly sultry; light showers from 4 to 5 P.M. 23d. Clear, with fresh wind. 24th, Cloudy; very light rain morning and afternoon. 25th. Hard rain early, very light rain during the day. 26th. Rain-storm. 27th, Cloudy A.M., variable P.M., sultry. 28th, Clear, wind mostly fresh. Rain for the week three-quarters of an inch.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE will hold its Regular Meeting, on Wednesday, June 15. DR. PEASLEE will read a Paper on Ovariotomy.

SECTION OF THEORY AND PRACTICE AND MEDICAL PATHOLOGY OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.—The Stated Monthly Meeting of this Section will be held at the house of the Chairman, DR. H. D. BULKLEY, No. 42 East 22d st., on Thursday next, the 16th inst., at eight o'clock P.M.

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IRON, PHOSPHORUS, CALISAYA.**

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The Profession are requested to examine our beautiful combination of the above inestimable tonics.

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Wm. Frothingham, M.D., late House
Surgeon and Physician, Bellevue Hospital, cor. 158th st. and 10th Avenue, Washington Heights, New York.

A Fine Opportunity for a Surgeon.

—Dr. Swinburne, of Albany, N. Y., recently appointed Health Officer to the Post of New York, offers his fine residence in that city for sale for its market value, without any extra charge for its being an established place of surgical business. The house is provided with all the modern improvements, is nearly new, and built by the Doctor for his own convenience, and hence is well adapted to the wants of a physician or surgeon. There is probably no more eligible location for an aspiring young surgeon who is disposed to work his way in the world than this, and for a surgeon of reputation an excellent opportunity for a good location for practising his profession. He has also a commodious stable attached, which may be purchased if desired. For reference please address Mr. E. Bleeker, 55 Eagle st., Albany, or Dr. John Swinburne, Quarantine, Staten Island.

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MENT AT FLORENCE, MASS. (near Northampton), is pleasantly situated in a healthy mountain region, amply supplied with the purest, softest, and coldest granite water. Shady walks and drives, with pleasant views all around; bowling alleys; boats; billiard table; pianos; gymnasium; several hundred feet of covered piazzas; rooms all light and airy; diet plain, but nourishing, abundant and well prepared; the whole of the Institute managed with care, order, and neatness. Dr. Munde, though the sole disciple of Priessnitz, and one of the first writers on his system, does not claim for it a greater scope than really belongs to it; but as a healthy Branch of the Healing Art, based entirely upon physiological principles, he considers it well worth the attention of the Profession, who ought not to confound the good cause with its many bad advocates.

For Terms, etc., apply as above.

J. W. W. Gordon's Spring Vaccinator.

nator.—We solicit the attention of Physicians to this ingenious instrument, of simple construction, cutting the skin and inserting the virus in one operation, which is instantaneous. It has met with the unqualified approval of every Physician who has used it.

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1st. It is a great economiser of time and matter.

2d. The operation is sure to succeed when the virus is good and the system in a suitable condition, as the matter is deposited in immediate contact with the absorbents, where it must remain, there being no hemorrhage to remove it, neither can it be affected by friction on the arm, which the patient is so apt to indulge in after the operation.

3d. It is admirably adapted to timid children, the operation being instantaneous, and accompanied with so little pain as in many instances not to disturb children when asleep.

4th. It is of inestimable value in enabling the Physician to determine whether the operation is successful, for this reason: the wound inflicted by the instrument is so trivial, that the too early appearance of inflammation would prove to be the result of spurious matter or of a vitiated system.

Very respectfully,

S. T. KNIGHT, M.D.,
Health Commissioner.

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To the Medical Profession.—Dr. J.

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